

**Miles et al.**

**Serial No.: 09/724,380**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend Claims 3, 10, and 17 as follows:

3. **(Once Amended)** A method of screening for a nucleic acid capable of inhibiting translation of a nucleic acid sequence containing an IRES wherein said nucleic acid sequence is from a Hepatitis A virus, said method comprising the step of administering to an organism said nucleic acid encoding a sequence that is complementary to at least a portion of said IRES, wherein the ability of said nucleic acid to inhibit translation of said viral nucleic acid sequence is detected by:
  - (a) contacting said nucleic acid with a reporter gene construct having the following elements operably linked: a replication origin, a promoter, a reporter gene, and said IRES, under conditions where said reporter gene is translated;
  - (b) measuring the level of the translation product of said reporter gene, and
  - (c) comparing said level of said translation product in (b) to the level of translation product synthesized by the reporter gene construct under the conditions of (a) but in the absence of said nucleic acid, thereby detecting said nucleic acid capable of inhibiting translation of said nucleic acid sequence.
6. **(Canceled)** The method of claim 3 wherein said virus is selected from the group consisting of hepatitis A, and hepatitis C.
10. **(Once Amended)** The method of claim 9, wherein said oligonucleotide further comprises a CAT nucleotide triplet.